

PARIS BELITTLES SPY-CASE CHARGES

Reports Abroad of 'French
Philby' Termed Ridiculous

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By HENRY TANNER

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, April 15—Allegations that the "highest French Government circles" had been infiltrated by a Soviet agent were dismissed today by officials of President de Gaulle's office as completely ridiculous and grotesque.

A one-sentence statement to that effect by the Elysée, the Presidential Palace, was carried by Agence France-Presse, the French news agency, this afternoon.

Elysée officials later explained that the statement had been issued because the allegations had appeared in two reputable London newspapers but that the whole matter was "wholly insignificant" and "uninteresting."

The Sunday Times of London announced that it would start publication next week of a "sensational" espionage story, including the charge that a "French traitor, a French Philby, had pushed President de Gaulle into anti-Western acts."

H. A. R. Philby, formerly high-ranking British intelligence officer, was one of the Soviet Union's most successful spies.

In a later edition, The Sunday Times said that the author of its account was Philippe Thiraud de Vosjoly, a former French intelligence officer now living in the United States.

The French officials pointed out that the news of the pending publication by The Sunday Times and Life magazine of the memoirs of Mr. Thiraud de Vosjoly appeared last Thursday in the current issue of Le Canard Enchaîné, the French satirical weekly.

Le Canard, as it is usually called, named Mr. de Vosjoly as the source of similar material treated in fictionalized form in Leon Uris's best-selling novel,

"Topaz," published in the United States by McGraw-Hill.

The satirical magazine, which commented that anyone familiar with the "alleys" of government would recognize the characters in Mr. Uris's novel, said:

"The 'turned-around' Soviet colonel, that's Penkovsky; the high N.A.T.O. official, that's [Georges] Pâques, since convicted of espionage; the aide to De Gaulle, that's Jacques Foccart, master for De Gaulle of the French barbouzerie, [secret services]. As for the French barbouze who battles heroically to let truth be known, that is, in Uris's book, Colonel Devereaux. Under this name one recognizes Thiraud de Vosjoly."

Mr. Foccart has been one of President de Gaulle's closets associates for many years. His office is in Elysée Palace and he is in charge of coordinating and supervising the activities of France's various intelligence organizations.

Author Reported in U.S.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 15 — Mr. Philippe Thiraud de Vosjoly was reported today to have gone into hiding in the United States, apparently to avoid questioning about his forthcoming memoirs.

United States officials said he had retained his French passport and did not apply for a permanent residence permit after his decision five years ago to leave service in the French Government.

By making periodic trips to Canada and other foreign countries, the officials said, he is able to live in the United States on temporary entry permits. He is also said to have avoided his former colleagues at the French Embassy.

Former acquaintances of Mr. Thiraud de Vosjoly recalled that one of his exploits for the French Intelligence services was to visit Cuba just before the missile crisis of 1962 to photograph the Soviet missile sites under construction. His pictures were credited as the first taken on the ground.

Life Plans Publication

Thomas Griffith, editor of Life, said yesterday:

"Yes, we will be publishing

an article by De Vosjoly in the issue coming out next Monday, dated April 26. The cover hasn't closed yet; it could very well be on the cover."

Mr. Griffith said that it was "article length," but that he did not know what the exact length would be. He also then said the title for the article had not yet been decided, but that it would not include the words "French Philby."